10/18/68

Dear Hal,

The schedule in your letter of 10/15 is even lighter than I'd expected. It makes me wonder if it would not be advisable to spend part of the last part of the week in LA, if Steve can use the time, in either appearances or other work. If this will work out, then I could then do one of two things, whichever seemed more desireable: work in the LA area, if that seems likely to be productive, or go to New Orleans, where I never do have enough time and there I should, if at all possible, get earlier. For getting there earlier means leaving before noon on the Friday of the LA week, for my ticketing would have to be changed to a higher rate if I leave on the weekend. I now have extra work to do there, as I will explain to you and Steve, when I see you. There is an extra things I will have to do in both your cities also, but that will not take too much time. I hope it will be productive.

From your schedule, all I have after Tuesday night ~~in the Jim E.~~ is the Jim Eason Show. First of all, I think Jim would advance it. Next, I'll go crazy sitting around in a strange town, thinking of all the work at home. I'll have Monday afternoon and night to spend with you fellows, and if we take Wednesday to the time Jim goes on, I can leave for LA some time Thursday, even, in an emergency, Wednesday night. This would give Steve the use of Friday, if he can find any use for it, give me that time, which I can find use for there, Saturday and part of Sunday to be with Steve, Art and Jim, then I can go to San Diego Sunday, and I should be able to leave for N.O. early on the 25th, unless Steve has found more available than I expect.

Unless there is some good reason for this extravagance with time time, I'd really like to make better use of it. In New Orleans, I can, as in part my letters to Paul may show. I will also have a few extra problems down there this time because there has been a propaganda campaign by the other side. In fact, much as I like Jim and much good as we have gotten from his audience in the past, I'd give the show up for the time. You know how hard it is for me to get to N.O. This time I must also prepare for another trip, where Dud will be along. I hope it can work out this way, with enough time for all three cities. Unless George Abbott has need for the third day, I'd spend it in LA.

I'd rather not go into detail on COUP D'ETAT to CH-44 and, alas, I have no time because I'm trying to get all the additions done before I leave, a must if Lil is to retype it. I'd like to talk to Freeman about it more than Ch 44, for I doubt they'll have any interest in helping with it. The schedule allows enough time. Hurriedly,